

From: root@ftc.agilent.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:37pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I would like to state my opinion that the "penalties" that Microsoft faces currently are hardly a slap on the wrist. Microsoft should be split into two different companies. By not doing this they will still have the inside design advantage for their software. Hopefully this would keep them from executing their past illegal practices in play.

They go to a computer maker or software distributor and say "Sell only my products or you don't get the discount". The loss of a discount could make a company uncompetitive price wise or make them operate at a loss which makes their long term operations harder to manage. This type of behavior is extortion. Sell my products only or we'll destroy your company. If this type of thing happened on the docks, we would call it racketeering and Microsoft the Mafia.

Do not allow this phony penalties to stand. Don't fall for the "what's good for Microsoft is good for the country" talk. Predatory monopolies that behave the way Microsoft does is not good for anyone except Microsoft.

These opinions are mine alone and are not associated with my employer in any way.

Jeff Cleverley
Unix system administrator